

TURTON URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR 1943.



TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF TURTON.

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit to you the Annual Report on the Health and Sanitary Administration of the Urban District of Turton, together with a summary of the work done during 1943.

The District covers an area of 17,335 acres.

The population was, according to the census of 1931, returned as 11,847, and the last Registrar General's estimate of the resident population was 11,170 (exclusive of evacuees).

The number of inhabited houses at the end of 1943 was 3,681.

The Rateable Value was £76,327, and a penny rate yields a sum of £310.

The social conditions and standard of living are equal to the average of a mainly industrial community.

EMPLOYMENT.

The chief employment is in Textile Manufacture, Bleachworks, Dyeworks and Stone Quarries.

Men employed at the Stone Quarries are subject to Silicosis. They undergo a medical examination periodically by Government Inspectors, and they get compensation if they are found to be suffering from Silicosis.

WATER SUPPLY.

The Water Supply is mainly secured from the Bolton Corporation Waterworks. It is of good quality, is a constant supply and is sufficient in quantity for the parts of the District where the supply reaches, but there are parts of the area which cannot get a supply from the Bolton Water Undertaking as the water mains do not extend to all parts of the District.

There is occasional liability to lead solvency, due to the peaty character of the gathering ground. Samples are periodically submitted for analysis and every possible precautionary method is adopted by the Bolton Corporation to maintain its purity.

The majority of the houses get their supply from Bolton, but a number on account of their situation are obliged to get their supply from shallow wells.

Fifteen houses in the Bradshaw District get their water supply from the Bury and District Joint Water Board as they are situated near the Bury water mains.

The Sewerage system of the District is working in a satisfactory manner. The sewage from the Eagley and Egerton Wards is conveyed to the Eagley Sewage Works where it is treated by the activated sludge plant.

The works has a capacity of 170,000 gallons normal dry weather flow with an approximate yearly flow of 120 million gallons.

The sewage from Belmont Ward is conveyed to the Belmont Sewage Works. It is treated by septic tanks and cinder filtration. The works are capable of treating 21,469 gallons and the approximate yearly flow is 13 million gallons.

During the year under review, all samples of sewage effluent taken by the Lancashire Rivers Board were classed as satisfactory.

The scavenging of the whole district is carried out by the District Council. The ash-pits and ashbins, etc., are emptied during the day and the refuse carried to tips on waste land in suitable localities.

I here append a list of the conversions carried out during the year, and also during the preceding five years—

	1943.	During 1938-1942.
Privy Closets to Fresh Water Closets	0	31
Privy Closets to Pail Closets	6	8
Waste Water Closets to Fresh Water Closets.....	6	135
Pail Closets to Fresh Water Closets	4	23
Houses at which moveable ashbins have been substituted for fixed receptacles	22	172

During the year two additional Fresh Water Closets were provided in existing properties.

At the end of 1943 there were—

2,426 Fresh Water Closets. 251 Earth or Pail Closets.

1,454 Waste Water Closets. 1,788 Galvanised Ashbins.

344 Privy Middens.

During the year 43,498 ashbins and pails, and 1,544 privy middens and ashpits have been cleansed.

Number of Privies and Ashpits found defective	26
„ „ Privies and Ashpits repaired	22
„ „ Ashpits demolished	4

DAIRIES AND COWSHEDS.

Number on Register :	Dairies 117.	Cowsheds 197.
Number of Retail Producers		54
„ „ Wholesale Producers		19
„ „ Wholesale Producers who also sell retail		39
„ „ Wholesale Traders (not Producers)		0
„ „ Retail Traders (not Producers)		3
„ „ Retail Producers under Accredited Licence		4
„ „ Wholesale Producers under Accredited Licence		1
„ „ Inspections of Cowsheds		311
„ „ Inspections of Dairies		167
„ „ Cowsheds lime-washed		197
„ „ Cowshed drains found defective		6
„ „ Cowshed drains repaired		5
„ „ Cowshed drains reconstructed		1
„ „ Cowsheds provided with additional light and ventilation		2
„ „ Cowsheds repaired		3
„ „ New Cowsheds provided		0
„ „ Preliminary Notices issued on Tenants		4
„ „ Preliminary Notices issued on Owners		2
„ „ Preliminary Notices abated by Tenants		4
„ „ Preliminary Notices abated by Owners		2
„ „ New Water supplies provided		0

During the year there were no cases of Infectious Diseases notified of persons who were engaged in the production of handling of milk.

One case of Anthrax was reported and confirmed on a milk producing farm. On the same day (Sunday, the 7th Feb.), the carcass was removed and destroyed and the premises cleansed and thoroughly disinfected in accordance with the Anthrax Order, 1938.

No subsequent cases have developed at this farm.

MILK SUPPLIED TO SCHOOLS.

Twenty-four samples of milk were taken from eight schools in the Turton District supplied by eight farms with 214 head of cattle. These samples were examined at the Public Health Laboratory, York Place, Manchester, and were found to be free from Tubercle Bacilli.

TUBERCULAR MILK.

During the year four cases of Tubercular Milk in herds, which totalled 101 were reported and were investigated by the Ministry of Agriculture Inspector.

Each of these cases was investigated by the Ministry of Agriculture, and as a result two cows were removed from the herds and dealt with under the Tuberculosis Order.

In two cases several animals had been sold and found to have been taken for slaughtering, the remainder were in each case tested with negative result.

MILK PRODUCED UNDER ACCREDITED LICENCE.

Eighteen samples were taken from five farms under the Milk (Special Designation) Order from the herds totalling 165 animals. Each of these samples was found to be free from Tuberculosis, but in three cases did not satisfy the Methylene Blue Test. This standard was subsequently secured.

Number of Cows tested	480
„ „ Cows found to be giving Tuberculous Milk	2
„ „ Cows dealt with under the Tuberculosis Order	2

SLAUGHTER HOUSES.

Number on Register : Eight.

During the year 361 visits were made to Butchers' Shops and Slaughter Houses.

Normal slaughtering of animals, owing to the operation of the Livestock (Restriction of Slaughtering) Order, 1940, is not carried on, but Licences are granted for slaughtering of livestock under conditions laid down by the Ministry of Food for home consumption.

The National Children's Home is also granted facilities for slaughtering of fatstock of their own fattening for consumption in the Institution.

Under these two heads the following have been slaughtered—

Beasts	12	Pigs	67
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One hundred and fourteen pounds of Meat and Offals were found to be diseased and unfit for food. These were surrendered at once by the owners and destroyed.

OTHER FOODS CONDEMNED.

5 Tins Apples.	26 Tins Meats. 40 lbs.
1 Tin Peaches.	Cheese. 26 lbs.
2 Tins Pineapples.	22 Tins Fish.
13 Tins Plums.	17 Tins Vegetables.
5 Tins Evaporated Milk.	24 Jars Pickles.
8 Tins Sweetened Milk.	Raisins. 203 lbs.

BAKEHOUSES.

Number on Register	15
„ „ Inspections	29
„ „ Notices issued on Tenants for Limewashing	2
„ „ Notices issued on Owners for Sanitary Defects	1
„ „ Notices abated	3
„ „ Drains found defective	1
„ „ Drains repaired	1
„ „ Drains reconstructed	0

FRIED FISH AND CHIPPED POTATO SHOPS.

Number in District : Seven.

The Sanitary Inspector made 18 visits to these shops when they were found to be conducted in a satisfactory manner.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938.

This work is entrusted to the County Sampling Officer (Mr. J. C. Almond), who, with the co-operation of the Sanitary Inspector, purchased the samples here enumerated—

Nature of Sample.	No. of Samples taken.	Result of Analysis.
Milk	22	See Note.
Boracic Ointment	1	Genuine.
Vapour Rub	1	„
Aspirin Tablets	2	„
Vinegar	2	„
Cascara Tablets	1	„
McLean's Powder	1	„
Laxative Chocolate	2	„
Epsom's Salts	1	„
Glauber's Salts	1	„

NOTE.—Three samples of milk proved deficient. Two prosecutions were taken, and one warning given.

RESULTS OF THE TWO PROSECUTIONS.—Each was fined ten pounds and costs

SANITARY WORK.

Number of Inspections made	2334
„ „ Re-inspections made	2741
„ „ Statutory Notices served	12
„ „ Statutory Notices abated	3
„ „ Statutory Notices outstanding or in hand, or in progress of abatement	9
„ „ Preliminary Notices served	137
„ „ Preliminary Notices abated	141
„ „ Preliminary Notices outstanding at the end of 1942	6
„ „ Smoke Tests applied to house drains	15
„ „ Houses affected by tests	18
„ „ House drains found defective	49
„ „ House Drains repaired	39
„ „ House Drains reconstructed	10
„ „ House drains trapped	11
„ „ Downspouts disconnected or inlets at foot trapped	11
„ „ Ventilation shafts fixed	6
„ „ Soil Pipes repaired	5
„ „ Slop Waste Pipes repaired	14
„ „ Yard Surfaces repaired or flagged	11
„ „ Downspouts repaired	17
„ „ Visits to refuse tips	31
„ „ Houses fumigated	22
„ „ Schools fumigated	0
„ „ Domestic Water supplies found defective	0
„ „ New domestic water supplies provided	0
„ „ Samples of water taken and submitted to Analyst	0

THE SCHOOLS.

The Schools in the District are periodically inspected and if required, fumigated. The Water supply and sanitary conditions, and with the exception of, as is the case with several schools in which trough latrines and waste water closets exist, they may be said to be satisfactory, and I would suggest that these closets be replaced by the modern type of closet accommodation at no distant date.

The Milk supplies to schools is sampled periodically for examination and suitable action taken where necessary.

No schools were closed during the year on account of Infectious Disease cases.

HOSPITALS FOR INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

There is no Isolation Hospital in the District, but satisfactory arrangements have been made with the Bury and District Joint Isolation Hospital Board and the Darwen Isolation Hospital to take infectious cases occurring in the District.

Two beds are reserved at the Bury Hospital for cases of Smallpox and an unlimited number of beds at the Florence Nightingale Hospital, Bury, and Bull Hill Hospital, Darwen, for other infectious cases. These arrangements are equal to the requirements of the District and operate very satisfactorily.

There are four Nursing Associations in the District. Each has one District Nurse. Two of these nurses attend Maternity cases, and there is a County Council Midwife resident in the District.

The District has the use of the Bolton Infirmary Ambulance and the Bolton Corporation Ambulance. This service is satisfactory and sufficient for the needs of the District.

PUBLIC SWIMMING BATHS.

There is a Public Swimming Bath at Egerton, owned by the Turton Urban District Council. The Bath is provided with Bell's Bath Filtration Plant, and this is working very satisfactorily.

ERADICATION OF BED BUGS.

Particulars of action taken in 1943.

No. of houses found to be infested	(a) Council houses	0
	(b) Other houses	1
No. of houses disinfested	(a) Council houses	0
	(b) Other houses	1
Methods employed for freeing infested Houses from bed-bugs	Stripping of wallpaper, treating all cracks and crevices with the flame of a blow- lamp, and thoroughly spraying walls and ceilings with a good insecticide	

State name of fumigant or insecticide used and efficiency thereof	Vermoose, Zaldecide and Deodex have given good result.
Method employed for ensuring that belong- ings of tenants are free from vermin before removed to Council houses	Spraying as above if such were required
Is work of disinfestation carried out by Local Authority or by a Contractor	By Council on their own property. In other cases owner or occupier is provided with material at cost or the work is done on signed order by the Council work- men. In cases of this kind, advice is given by the Sanitary Inspector.

HOUSING CONDITIONS.

Number of Houses of all classes	3685
„ „ Working Class dwelling houses	3474
„ „ Working Class dwelling houses erected	0
„ „ Houses over £20 Rateable Value erected	0

1.—Inspection of dwelling houses during the year.

1. A. Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects under Public Health and Housing Acts	78
B. Number of inspections made for this purpose	101
2. A. Number of dwelling houses (included under subhead 1 above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Con- solidated Regulations, 1925	0
B. Number of inspections made for the purpose	0
3. Number of houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	0
4. Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding subhead) found not to be in all respect fit for human habitation	40

2.—Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal notice—

1. Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	36
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3.—Action under Statutory Power during the year—

A. Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936—

1. Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	4
2. Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of Formal Notice	0
A. By Owners	3
B. By Local Authority in default of owner	1

B. Proceedings under Public Health Acts—

1. Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	14
2. Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of Formal Notice—	
A. By Owners	14
B. By Local Authority in default of owner	0

C. Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936—

1. Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	0
2. Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	0

D. Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936—

1. Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	0
2. Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit	0

4.—Housing Act, 1936, Part IV. Overcrowding—

A. 1. Number of Houses overcrowded at end of year	11
2. Number of Families dwelling therein	11
3. Number of Persons dwelling therein	72
B. Number of cases of overcrowding reported during the year	0
C. 1. Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	1
2. Number of persons concerned in such cases	5

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.

The total number of cases notified during the year was 107 as against 187 in 1942.

Seventeen cases were sent to Hospital.

The cost of Hospital treatment was £420 9s. 10d.

The cost of Hospital treatment for 1942 was £218 14s. 6d.

The following is a list of the Acute Infectious Diseases notified—

	Total cases Notified.	Cases admitted to Hospital.	Total Deaths.
Scarlet Fever	14	11	0
Diphtheria	2	2	0
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	0	0	0
Puerperal Fever	0	0	0
Puerperal Pyrexia	0	0	0
Pneumonia and Influenza Pneumonia	0	0	0
Para-Typhoid	0	0	0
Erysipelas	1	0	0
Acute Poliomyelitis	1	1	0
Smallpox	0	0	0
Whooping Cough	11	0	0
Measles	62	0	0
Cerebro Spinal Fever	0	0	0
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	5	2	3
Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis	1	1	1
	<hr/> 107	<hr/> 17	<hr/> 4

SCARLET FEVER.

There were 14 cases as against 22 for 1942.

There were no deaths.

The cases were distributed in the following Wards:—

Eagley	1	Belmont	1
Edgworth	1	Bromley Cross	1
Egerton	6	Bradshaw	4
Chapeltown	0		

DIPHTHERIA.

There were two cases as against three in 1942.

These cases occurred in Eagley and Edgworth Wards, and each case responded satisfactorily to Hospital treatment.

Neither of these persons had been Immunized.

TUBERCULOSIS.

The new cases and mortality were as follows:—

Age Period.	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory.	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
1-5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
5-10	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
10-15	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
15-20	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
20-25	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
25-35	1	0	1	0	0	0	1	0
35-45	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
45-55	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
55-65	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
65 and upwards	0	1	0	0	1	1	0	0
Total	3	2	1	0	2	1	1	0
	5		1		3		1	

All cases of Tuberculosis are visited. The houses and premises are inspected, the social and domiciliary conditions investigated and auxiliary assistance is given when necessary. Insanitary conditions are remedied if found.

The houses are fumigated when it is required and all necessary measures are taken in order to prevent the spreading of infection.

Pathological specimens which require Bacteriological examination are sent to the University of Manchester, Department of Bacteriology and Preventive Medicine.

During the year four throat swabs were examined and each of these proved to be negative.

Insulin was supplied to four people suffering from Diabetes. Three hundred and seventy-one phials of 5 c.c. each were supplied.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

The Scheme for immunizing children up to 15 years is being proceeded with, and under it the following children have been treated either at the various Schools, at the Council Offices, or at my Surgery, and in this connection I appreciate very much the co-operation given by Head Masters and Teachers in the Area.

During the year the following children were immunized with A.P.T.:—

Under 5 years.	5 to 15 years.
138.	227

Approximate estimated number of children in the Area at 31st December, 1943--

Under 5 years.	Between 5 and 15 years.
519	1,300

Since the inception of the scheme, the ages of children have increased and on the attaining of 15 years have been taken out of the figures here presented (97 children). The remaining children's records have all been stepped up in age, and the following result has been attained at the end of 1943 of children protected—

Under 5 years.	Between 5 and 15 years.
219 or 42.1 per cent.	1,036 or 79.6 per cent.

These figures are very satisfactory, but a much higher percentage of the children under five years is very desirable, and I hope that it may be attained.

The chief requirements of the District are—

HOUSING SCHEMES.

1. The need for these has not been reduced by the incidence of the World War, and it is to be hoped that as and when these matters can be dealt with again, schemes will be put forward and proceeded with in order to eradicate some of the worn-out and unsatisfactory houses that exist in our midst.

2. Many of the private streets in the district are in a bad state of repair which causes great inconvenience to the general public.

This report does not include the vital statistics of the district as I have not yet received this information from the Registrar-General.

I will issue this in the form of a supplement when these statistics are furnished by the Department concerned.

I am, Gentlemen,

Yours obediently,

JAMES CUMMING,

L.R.C.P., M.R.C.S., D.P.H.,

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

“ Bank Cottage,”
Edgworth,
Nr. Bolton.
February, 1944.